Press release

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Record rainfall - the wettest 12 months since records began

23 March 2001

Release number 466

The 12 months between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2001 will go down as the wettest 12-month period across England and Wales since records began in 1766.

With a week of March left the record has already been broken. Averaged across England and Wales there has been 1,299 mm of rain between 1 April 2000 and 20 March 2001. Until now the wettest 12 month period occurred between January and December in 1872 when 1,285 mm was recorded.

Highlights of this very wet spell have been the wettest April on record and the wettest Autumn on record, the latter resulting in flooding in many parts of the UK.

Notes:

1. The England and Wales rainfall series is a month by month comparison of rainfall across England and Wales since 1766.

2. Although rainfall records exist for Scotland and Northern Ireland, the records are for much shorter periods making similar comparisons more difficult.

3. April 2000 had 143 mm of rain; the previous wettest was April 1782 when 139 mm fell. Autumn 2000 had 489 mm of rain; the previous wettest was Autumn 1852 when 456 mm fell.

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